

was an Archbishop, a bad landlord was no less a bad landlord because he was an Abbot. Religious houses were attacked all over England, just as the lords' mansions were attacked, by serfs demanding their freedom. The number of assaults made on monasteries might surprise us, if we did not remember that these places, being corporate bodies, had moved more slowly in the direction of emancipating their serfs than had the ordinary lord of the manor. The townsmen, too, gave vent to their hatred of the monastic privileges which hampered the growth of their boroughs.

There had been a great change of English feeling towards the Church in the course of two centuries. Formerly Ecket, slain by four bravoës, had become the idol of the populace and the favourite Saint in the Calendar ; now Sudbury, torn to pieces by the rebels, won no posthumous honours from any repentance of the lower orders for their mad act of cruelty. No doubt the Rising was a rising against landlords, and the Church, being a great landlord, had to suffer with the class. But it may be doubted whether the murder of priors and the breaking open of monasteries would have been carried on with such gusto in the twelfth century. Richard the Second's reign was not an ' age of faith ' in either State or Church.

The causes of the Rising were manifold, and the districts in which rebellion or riot prevailed were in some cases far distant from each other. But it is impossible to assign one cause to Somerset, another to Chester, a third to the home counties, a fourth to East Anglia. It is more true to say that within the area of each county, men rose for objects differing according to the particular status and grievance of the individual rebels. Each manor, each city, had its own arrangements, and the inhabitants their own peculiar rights and wrongs. There was less homogeneity of law and custom throughout England in the fourteenth century than there is to-day. This was especially the case in the towns. The popular grievance was sometimes, as at Northampton, against the Mayor ; sometimes, as at Bury, against a neighbouring religious house; sometimes, as at Cambridge, against the University; sometimes, as at Oxford, Mayor and citizens joined to exact a grant from the King. Sometimes under